

BRIGHT DISPLAY BY LUTON TOWN

HEAVY DEFEAT FOR BLACKBURN ROVERS

LUTON TOWN thoroughly merited their splendid victory over BLACKBURN ROVERS on Saturday. It would be an exaggeration to say there was only one team in it, for the Rovers fought in their traditional way, and they capitulated only after a hard and entertaining struggle.

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THE CLASS OF FOOTBALL was high, and the Town have only to maintain their form to bring greater crowds than that of Saturday to every match. In every department they were superior in the long run of the game, although in the first few minutes it appeared as though the Rovers would prove the better side.

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THE ROVERS had the better of the early exchanges, their wings making speedy raids, and the half-backs supporting them admirably. Nelson and his backs had to work very hard to hold up the progress of the visitors, and eventually the Town forwards began to take a lively interest in the game.

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FROM ALMOST THE FIRST ATTACK of note by the Town the crowd were set roaring, for a grand shot by Vinall, who hit the ball very hard, seemed bound to score, but a grand leap by Barron enabled him to put the ball over the bar.

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FROM THAT POINT the game went in favour of the Town. Roberts banged a shot too high, and Ferguson muddled the ball very well, but none could connect with it as it crossed in front of goal, and Parris failed to hit it properly as he tried a first-time right-foot shot, and Hough was on him before he could recover.

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KEEPING THE BALL ON THE MOVE, the Town half-backs and forwards swept down again, and Ferguson, left in possession, lifted across a grand centre, clear of defenders, and PARRIS met the ball full tilt with his head, and into the net it flashed, to the accompaniment of tremendous cheering.

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GIVE-AND-TAKE PLAY followed, the Rovers striving with all their might to recover equality, but for the most part the Town made the pace, and the forwards played together splendidly, while the men behind kept pushing the ball through accurately. Parris again missed a fine chance, and Barron made a splendid save from Dawes. There was a scuffle right on the goal line, and the whistle brought relief to the Rovers.

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ANOTHER GOOD CHANCE made by the manoeuvring of Dawes was missed by Parris, and Dawes next dribbled well through the defence before he was brought down from behind, and there was a loud appeal for a penalty kick, but this was ignored.

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IN A ROVERS' RAID on the right, Dolman did the only thing left to him: he rushed out, but was beaten, and the ball would have gone into the net, but King had fallen into the breach and cleared promptly. The Rovers fought desperately and cleverly, and their left wing had the Town defenders the wrong way when Dolman flung himself at full length and robbed Smeaton.

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CAME THE TURN of the Town again, and after several thrustful efforts had been repelled, Roberts and Parris won two or three corner kicks in quick succession. From one of these Parris placed the ball well, and FERGUSON, lying handy, dashed in and shot into the net after Barron had come out and tried to parry the flag-kick.



T. SMITH

RIGHT TO THE INTERVAL the Town were on top, and if Vinall had shot promptly instead of trying to dribble close in, he might easily have added to the score. Dawes and Ferguson sent wide, and Roberts tested Barron with a hard drive.

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FROM THE KICK-OFF in the second half the Town dominated the play, and Barron was tried repeatedly, and once he lost the ball just outside the penalty area, then tapped it inside and picked it up, but as he was standing outside the area when he had the ball in his hands, he was penalised.

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PERSISTENT ATTACKS were made by the Town forwards, and little was seen of the Rovers' attack. A tendency to carry on the dribble too far by all the Town inside forwards was noticeable, and chances were lost thereby, but the Rovers' defence was kept hard pressed.

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VINALL was chiefly responsible for the third goal. Cleverly he slipped the attentions of two opponents and went on to drive in a hard, low shot; Barron dived across and managed to turn the ball from the net, but that was all he could do, and FERGUSON promptly nipped in and scored.

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WITH THE TOWN DEFENDERS WELL UP the field, the Rovers' raids were dangerous, and once Smeaton was given a very nice opening by the skilful play of Guest, but he missed badly. Quickly the Town replied, and Barron brought off another grand save when he nattered over the bar a tremendous shot from Roberts.

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AS PLAY PROGRESSED there was some carelessness among the Town defenders, and a tendency to go too far forward. This brought its penalty, for a move on the Rovers' right drew Nelson out of position and the ball was swung over to the left; GUEST deftly brought it under control and scored with a fine, low shot.

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NOT FOR LONG did the score remain so. The Town forwards came again, and raid after raid was frustrated only with difficulty. Then Parris careered right through, and as Barron came out, the winger lifted the ball over him, and it was entering the goal when Crook raced back and lustily punched out. DAWES easily scored from the penalty spot.

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IN THE CONCLUDING STAGES the Rovers went close on occasion, but for the most part the Town forwards were striving to break through at the other end, and it is quite conceivable they would have added to their score had they shot more frequently instead of keeping the ball too close and trying to get under the bar before shooting.

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THE MATCH WAS WELL WON, and every man on the Town side played at his best. Dolman and his co-defenders were generally safe, and the half-back play was as good as anything seen on the ground this season from any team. The forwards have got together well and there is an understanding that bodes ill for any defence, especially if forwards will shoot more promptly.

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LUTON TOWN	4
Parris, Ferguson (2), Dawes (pen.)	
BLACKBURN ROVERS	1
Guest	

LUTON—Dolman; King, Smith; Finlayson, Nelson, Fellowes; Ferguson, Dawes, Vinall, Roberts, Parris.

BLACKBURN—Barron; Hough, Crook; Dickie, Pryde, Wightman; Bruton, Butt, Mortimer, Smeaton, Guest.

Referee—E C Carnwell, Lichfield.